



The Ames Intelligencer

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School and Road Named After Early Pioneer

In March 1989 at the Story County Courthouse in Nevada, the Story County Board of Supervisors officially designated a two-mile stretch of road that connects county roads R50 and R38 in western Story County as the Cameron School Road. The action was the result of efforts by Virginia Sinclair of rural Ames to recognize one of Story County's earliest pioneers.

Built in 1854, Cameron School No. 4 was one of six log schools that existed in Story County at that time. The school was located on a one-acre lot near the center of Section 19 of Franklin Township, seven miles northwest of Ames.

The schoolhouse was named for

Henry C. Cameron, a veteran of two wars and a colorful individual who moved to the county in 1852. Henry was born in Marion County, Indiana on June 22, 1825. He was mustered into the U.S. Army in June 1846 and served during the Mexican War. Henry was honorably discharged at the end of his term of service in June 1847. Two months later, on August 12, 1847, Henry married Amanda J. Hussong. Amanda was born in Knox County, Tennessee on November 14, 1826, but, as a small child, she moved with her family to Clay County, Indiana.

In 1852, Henry and Amanda moved to Story County and acquired 160 acres of land from the federal

government. Between November 1864 and July 1865, Henry once again served his country, fighting for the northern effort during the Civil War. Through the years, Amanda bore ten children — four sons and six daughters, two of whom died in infancy — and lived on the family farm for 67 years. Amanda died in 1919 at the age of 92.

It was on the Cameron property that the log schoolhouse was built in 1854. The school building remained in use until it was replaced in 1872 by a new brick building located one-half mile west of Henry and Amanda's brick house. One of Henry and Amanda's sons owned a brick factory in the vicinity of Ontario (west Ames), and it may be presumed that the brick used in constructing both the school and the house was obtained from this factory. The new brick Cameron School continued to be used until approximately 1950. It was destroyed by fire in 1956.

Henry was obviously a man well-respected by his neighbors. At his death at the age of 79 on June 16, 1904, Henry was recognized as a pioneer and a patriotic citizen. He was honored as a man who was left an orphan at an early age and endured more than the usual disadvantages, but who overcame adversities "in the development of a sterling manhood and useful citizenship." A large crowd of neighbors assembled to pay Henry a final tribute of respect and to say farewell.

And, during the summer of 1989, in recognition of Henry C. Cameron, traffic signs designating Cameron School Road will be ordered and put into place, honoring one of Story County's earliest settlers.



The Cameron School was named after Henry C. Cameron, a veteran of two wars and a colorful individual who moved to Story County in 1852. It was on the Cameron property that the original log schoolhouse was constructed in 1854.

Bauge Family Home Project

Introduction

Long before Story County was an organized county, the federal government set aside land north of Huxley as university property. In 1856, the first private title to this part of Section 12 in Palestine Township was granted by a state patent to Thomas Hight. A log home was built in the mid-1860s on the property which was settled by Nils and Synneva Bauge, natives of Norway, in the spring of 1866. Thus begins the story of a small piece of Story County's history — the Bauge family log home.

The log structure, occupied by members of the Bauge family until 1956, was purchased in 1963 by the Steensland family of Huxley. Everett and Avis Steensland donated the log home in 1988 to the Story County Conservation Board which entered into a cooperative agreement with the Ames Heritage Association for management, insurance protection, restoration, and programming for the Bauge family home. The two agencies agreed to relocate the log home from its original site to the Story County Conservation Board's McFarland Park north of Ames.

The log building is covered by wooden siding, and a kitchen had been added to the north side of the house soon after construction of the home. The house measures 24 feet in length, 16 feet in width, and 16 feet in height, including the attic above the main level of the building. Unfortunately, the kitchen was removed prior to moving the home.

After inspecting the structure, historical consultant Darrell Henning of Decorah made several suggestions for restoration of the Bauge home. According to Henning, the home was built by persons of Norwegian descent, is in excellent condition, and retains a good deal of its original integrity.

Henning's recommendations included restoring the lean-to addition which was added to the home within 20 years of its construction; choosing a specific time period for restoration purposes; contacting family members to learn more about early furnishings, living in the home, and family history; removing the plaster from the interior white-washed log walls to explore changes

in the construction of the original building; and constructing a raised fieldstone foundation for the building on its new site.

Between Christmas and New Year's Day, the moving day arrived. With the cooperation of more than a dozen agencies, a parade of escort vehicles followed the log home as it traveled nearly 20 miles to its new fieldstone foundation at McFarland Park, having stood on its site north of Huxley for more than 120 years.

The next step was to develop long-range development and management plans for the log home, including restoration and interpretive programming plans. It was decided to restore the house to its 1890-1910 appearance when Nils and Synneva's son Lars, his wife Anna, and their 15 children lived in the home.

A stove, loom, quilting frame, and Norwegian shipping box were donated for use in the house, and family members across the country have been most helpful and enthusiastic about the project, providing financial support, as well as information about the log home and Bauge family history. A booklet detailing Bauge family information will be prepared in conjunction with an open house and dedication to be scheduled as the restoration process proceeds.

Restoration Process

The restoration process will include the following projects:

1. Retaining the exterior siding on the structure to illustrate that the siding was put on the building within 10-20 years of construction and is, therefore, historically accurate and to protect the logs from weathering;
2. Reconstructing the lean-to addition to illustrate that the kitchen was added shortly after construction of the log portion of the building and is, therefore, historically accurate;
3. Re-shingling the roof with wooden shingles;
4. Exposing the interior logs to illustrate the original white-

washed treatment of the interior walls;

5. Relocating the staircase to its original position near the center of the partition wall;
6. Replacing windows and doors as needed with historically accurate reproductions;
7. Investigating and restoring the original heating system, whether brick chimney or stove pipe;
8. Continuing to explore the home for physical evidence that may indicate changes or alterations since the 1890-1910 time period;
9. Continuing to assemble information concerning family history, furnishings, and lifestyle of Lars and Anna Bauge in order to develop an interpretive programming plan.

Interpretive Programming Plan

The goal of the interpretive programming plan for the Bauge family log home is to provide visitors with valuable learning experiences at the log home site. Visitors will include school groups, community and youth groups, and the general public from Story County and central Iowa.

Programming will be developed to give visitors historically accurate insights into life in rural Story County during the period of 1890-1910 as illustrated by a typical Norwegian pioneer household. Programming plans will describe, in particular, the activities and experiences of the Bauge family.

Because of the location of the log home site and security considerations, the house will be open to visitors only by appointment. In these situations, guides will deliver oral interpretation at the site. Special events will be scheduled frequently during the spring, summer, and fall months.

Interpretive programming will include the following themes:

1. The Westward Trek to describe the westward migration of non-native populations into Iowa and to describe Nils and Synneva Bauge's movements from Norway to Illinois to Iowa;

2. Building the Norwegian Log Home to describe the construction of a typical log home in the tradition of Norwegian settlers;
3. Making a New Life to describe the procedures to establish a home and farm in newly-opened land and to describe Lars and Anna Bauge's household and way of life; and
4. Living in Story County at the Turn of the Century to describe county, state, and national events during the 1890-1910 time period to explain outside influences in Lars and Anna Bauge's lifestyle.

Budget for Restoration Process

Phase I (Completed)

Building acquisition	Donation
Preparation for move	Donated labor
Moving expenses	\$1,560.82
Foundation construction	\$3,842.47
Total	\$5,403.29 (PAID)

Phase II

Lean-to reconstruction	\$3,600
Window reconstruction	\$1,000
Wooden shingle roofing	\$1,000
	Donated labor
Foundation for lean-to	\$1,100
	Donated labor and materials
Total	\$6,700

Phase III

Relocation of staircase	\$1,200
Replacement of weathered logs	\$2,500
Construction of exterior steps	Donated labor
Replacement of siding	Donated labor and materials
Interior and exterior painting	Donated labor
Restoration of ceiling beams	Donated labor
Restoration of white-washed walls	Donated labor
Restoration of flooring	Donated labor
Total	\$3,700

Phase IV

Furnishings	\$1,000
	Donations
Unexpected expenses	\$1,600
Total	\$2,600

TOTAL PROJECTED BUDGET

FOR RESTORATION \$13,000

Story County pioneers Nils and Synneva Bauge were natives of Norway who settled on the farm north of Huxley in 1866. They were the first of the Bauge family to live in the log home. It is to Nils and Synneva Bauge — and their descendants — that this small piece of local history is dedicated. Please join us in restoring the Bauge family log home. If you would like to contribute to this project, send your contributions, made payable to the Ames Heritage Association, to Bauge Home Project, c/o Ames Heritage Association, P.O. 821, Ames, Iowa 50010. Thank you!



This photograph of Lars and Anna Bauge on their wedding day was provided by Marguerite and Elden Bauge of Ames. Elden is the youngest child born to Lars and Anna Bauge. Bauge family members will be invited to a private open house at the Bauge family home now located at McFarland Park north of Ames in late September 1989 in honor of Marguerite and Elden's 50th wedding anniversary.

In response to requests from the public, the Ames Heritage Association

will sponsor an open house for the public at the Bauge family home on Sunday, September 24, 1989 from 2-4 p.m. The Board of Directors requests volunteers to greet the public, provide and serve refreshments, and assist with scheduled activities designed to illustrate the Norwegian way of life. Contact Sharon Wirth at 233-2415 and Cele Burnett at 232-2516 (work) or 232-2791 (home) for more information and to volunteer your services.

Old Town Preserves Its History

by Sharon Wirth

Consideration of a proposal to designate the Old Town Historic District began when an application was filed with the city's planning and housing department in November 1988. The proposed Old Town Historic District includes an eight-block area bounded by Ninth and Seventh Streets and Duff and Clark Avenues. This area comprises the land included in the first two plats for the town of Ames.

In February 1989, the Historic Preservation Commission held a public hearing where the majority of comments supported the establishment of the district. Since January 1989, a subcommittee of six people, including Brian O'Connell and Ray Anderson from the city staff, Wes Shank and Riad Mahayni from the preservation commission, and Sharon Wirth and Debbie Fisher from the proposed Old Town Historic District, have worked to develop design guidelines for the City of Ames.

These guidelines include a set of criteria which are uniformly applied to evaluate the appropriateness of proposed changes in historic districts. The guidelines work to identify, retain, and preserve the architectural materials and features which define the historic character of an area. The design guidelines will be used for all historic districts throughout the city by the Historic Preservation Commission when it considers applications for a certificate of appropriateness. A certificate of appropriateness will be required before a building permit can be issued within a designated historic district.

Additionally, each district will prepare design criteria based on the particular architectural styles and types found within the proposed district. The proposed design guidelines and the design criteria contain numerous graphics to assist the user in understanding the concepts presented. Working together, the design guidelines and the design criteria will ensure that changes and development are carefully planned and build upon an area's strengths.

At meetings held in April and May 1989, the Historic Preservation Commission unanimously voted to recommend approval of the design

guidelines and establishment of the Old Town Historic District. The Planning and Zoning Commission gave its approval to the proposal at its June 1989 meeting.

In a work session in July 1989, the Ames City Council unanimously voted to refer the application to the Iowa State Historical Society for review. Following this review, the city council must hold a public hearing, followed by three readings of the ordinance, before the area can be officially designated as the city's first historic district.

Establishment of the Old Town Historic District will encourage restoration work in the area to continue, while reaffirming the city's commitment to conserving its non-renewable historic resources. Structures in this area are significant as a group, because they illustrate the history of housing in Ames between the 1870s and mid-1930s. The area contains the most significant concentration of these historic structure types remaining in Ames.

For more information about the Old Town Historic District and historic preservation, contact Sharon Wirth at 233-2415.

Due to an oversight, your Ames Heritage Association membership card was not included with your membership renewal letter. Therefore, we are enclosing the membership card with this newsletter. The Board of Directors apologizes for any inconvenience this oversight may have caused. Thank you.

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The Ames Heritage Association meets the third Tuesday of every month (September through May) at 7:00 p.m. at the Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the third Tuesday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The *Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year—winter, spring, and fall.



**AMES HERITAGE
Association**

Ames, Iowa 50010

This is to certify that

is a Member for

1989

Suzanne Kelly

Date

Membership Chairman

Bauge Family Ties to Ames

by Farwell T. Brown



The Fort Dodge, Des Moines, and Southern Interurban railroad, headed west on Main Street, is about to pass the Bauge and Alm Shoe Store seen above the top of the popcorn wagon that stands on the corner of Main Street and Douglas Avenue in 1909. Ole Bauge had established his shoe business two years earlier, in 1907, at that location.

Ole Bauge's boyhood home was the pioneer log home recently moved to McFarland Park north of Ames where it will be restored for the educational enjoyment of local citizens.

Ole was the son of Nils and Synneva Bauge, natives of Norway, who, in 1866, established their family in the log home located north of Huxley. Ole, born in Skaanevic,

Norway in 1855, was 11 years old when he arrived in Story County with his parents. Raised in a family of eight boys and one girl, Ole left the family farm and moved to Ames at the age of 21 in 1876. He clerked for a time at Tilden's Department Store on Main Street before forming a partnership with Charles Alm in the shoe business at Main and Douglas.

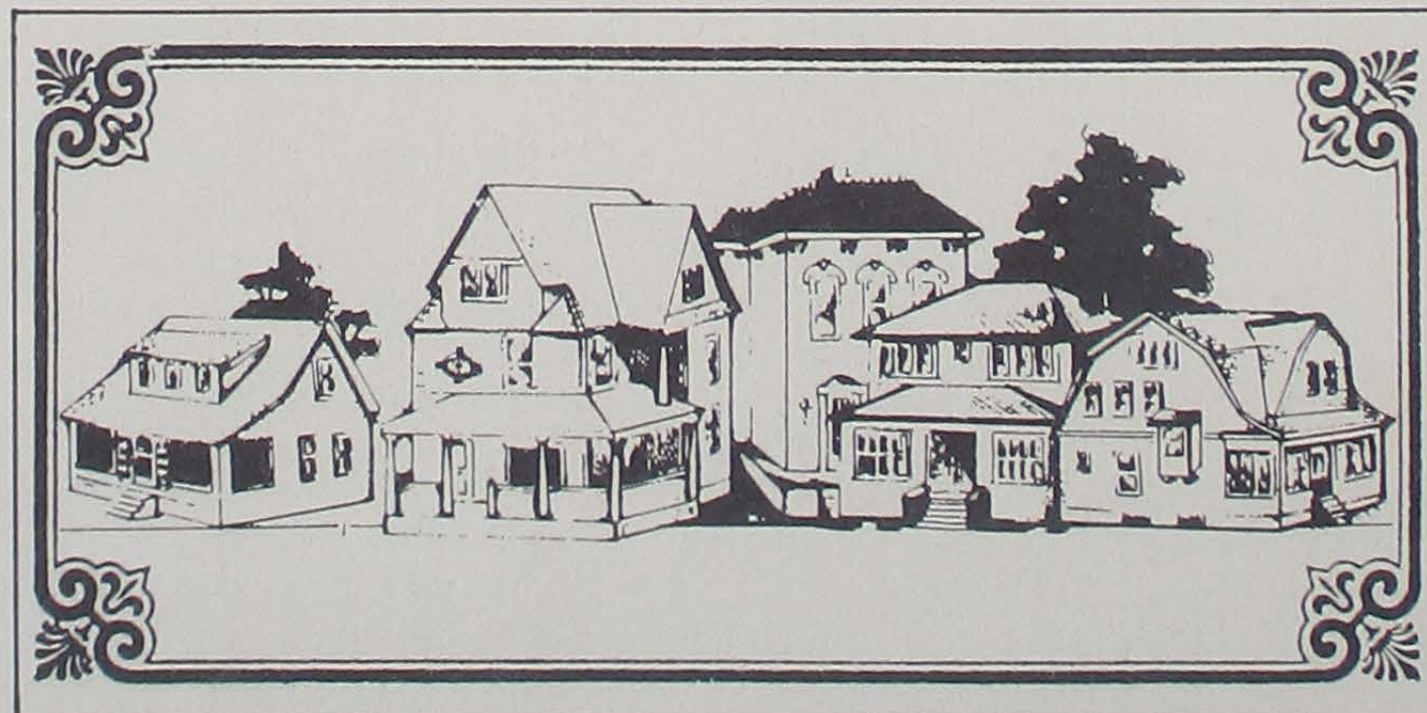
In 1920, Ole's son, Jennings Bauge, bought Alm's interest in the store, and the firm became known as Bauge and Son. In 1932, Jennings became the sole proprietor of the shoe store now known as the Bauge Shoe Company, Inc.

The Bauge shoe store carried well-known shoe brands, including the E.T. Wright and Freeman lines.

Those of us who grew up in Ames in the 1920s will remember "Buster Brown," the midget who came to the Bauge store once a year to entertain crowds of kids on a Saturday afternoon in front of the store. Free whistles, paper caps, and wooden stilts painted red were given away to promote "Buster Brown" shoes for children.

A long-time popular clerk in the Bauge store was Si Larson who joined Ole in 1914 and remained with the store as long as it remained in business. I remember buying Freeman's "Friendly Fives," a good-quality shoe selling for \$5.00, at Bauge's in the 1930s from Si Larson. Those were the Depression years when you could get a good pair of shoes for five dollars, bakery bread for five cents a loaf, and a bus ride to campus for seven cents.

The Bauge shoe store continued as a popular Main Street shoe store until Jennings' retirement in 1966. Jennings Bauge died at the age of 80 on September 12, 1969, 18 years after his father's death on July 7, 1951 at the age of 95. The building was acquired by the City of Ames in February 1967. It was removed to provide a walk-through access to the parking lot south of the business district, destroying all evidence of the Bauge and Alm Shoe Store at the corner of Main and Douglas.





From meetings of the Board of Directors of the Ames Heritage Association:

- Reports by Treasurer Nancy Ezarski indicating a balance of \$1,298.08 as of May 31, 1989, including income from membership dues, Bauge house donations, and Old Town Historic District donations, as well as expenditures for printing, postage, and Bauge house expenses;
- Reports by the Membership Committee indicating 142 members as of April 1989; membership renewal letters, as well as letters and membership brochures to prospective members, were mailed;
- Kathy Svec and Bill LaGrange of Ames were elected to replace Rodney Fox and Jim Duea who resigned from the board of directors; (EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to Rod and Jim for their past interest and support, and welcome to Kathy and Bill!);
- Reports by Sharon Wirth and Cele Burnett concerning the Bauge house project, indicating that a presentation and slide program will be developed to publicize the project and to solicit funds and that

an open house has been scheduled for September 24, 1989 at the Bauge home (see report elsewhere);

- Reports concerning Ames Heritage Association participation in the annual Salute to the Arts held in April 1989 with an informational display describing the AHA;
- Reports by Sharon Wirth concerning the League of Women Voters' position statement in support of rehabilitation and maintenance of the Ames Depot;
- Ames Heritage Association board members officially endorsed the proposal to designate the Old Town Historic District as Ames' first historic district (see information elsewhere);
- Reports by Kathy Svec and Sharon Wirth concerning AHA efforts to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the original platting of the city of Ames on December 17, 1864, including publishing a special edition of the newsletter and developing an exhibit in cooperation with the Octagon; the exhibit, funded in part by a grant from the Ames Community Arts Council, is designed to enhance knowledge about Ames' past and encourage interest

in local history; (EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone with matting and exhibit expertise is asked to volunteer their services to assist with the exhibit project);

- Reports concerning Hoggatt School, including decisions to invite the new principal of Meeker Elementary School to join the AHA Advisory Committee and to advise no further plantings on site until a water source is established;
- Reports concerning the development of a display of Ames historical artifacts at the new Ames city hall in cooperation with the city;
- Reports by Farwell Brown concerning the wording and cost of the Billy Sunday cemetery plaque;
- Decision that the AHA Board of Directors meet the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll in Ames, with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 1989;
- Reports concerning the development of awards for retiring board members and certificates for newborn babies at Mary Greeley Hospital, as well as printing new letterhead stationery and envelopes.

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